



Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675 | Meeting 3 November 2014

The Rotary Four-Way Test

The Four-Way Test challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask themselves:

Of the things we say or do:

1

Is it the **TRUTH**?

3

Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

2

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

4

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Rotary Corps Clubs

DG Barry raised the issue of corps clubs, being members of the community who would be hard-put to paying the annual administration fees imposed on Rotarians but still wanted to raise money for projects.

He cited a corps group of Nepalese in the St George area who were raising money for a project of the Rotary Club of Darling Harbour. Barry said such a group could be established in a migrant community, such as the Filipinos, in Parramatta. These clubs gave exposure to Rotary and might become a pool of future Rotarians.



Brown snakes in water wheels and cranky irrigators

David Ross, who went to Deniliquin in July last year to become a construction project manager for a private irrigators' infrastructure program, told us his project, which had just been completed, had put him on a steep learning curve.

He knew far more now about the Riverina's history and its importance as a major food producer to Australia's livelihood.

The 2,400 farms had been developed in the Murray-Darling basin between the 1930s and 1960s. The irrigation area covered 750,000 hectares,

or 1.9 million acres. It had 300 gravity-fed major irrigation channels. The area had a population of 33,000, and 13 towns ranging in population from 400 to more than 8,000. The produce, rice, cereal crops, some sheep and dairy produce, was valued at \$500 million a year.

The yearly release of water into the system at 312 gigalitres could be compared with the capacity of Sydney Harbour which was 362 gigalitres. Some 10,000 megalitres a day came from the Hume Dam. But there were problems. This year only 39 percent of licence holders got their entitlements. Murray Irrigation Ltd had been formed

in 1952 with licence holders as shareholders. But there was the inevitable conflict between shareholders wanting to maximise profits and those same individuals, being customers, wanting to cut costs.

The project involving David was to improve and modernise the delivery systems to make them more efficient, to satisfy both profit-seekers and cost-cutters. This was interesting work but subject to unexpected problems, such as sticks and turtles getting stuck in the water wheels, and snakes which, attracted to the water, thought that might be a good place for residence as well. The brown snakes were the most fearsome.

The Anzac/ WW1 Project

Malcolm Brown joined a meeting of Parramatta Rotary Club committee people on Wednesday to decide on details for the project for Parramatta schoolchildren next year on World War 1.

The project is to provide original work, such as poetry, an essay, art work or even music that celebrates Parramatta's contribution to the Empire's campaigns in World War 1. That includes but is not restricted to the Gallipoli campaign and can include all contributions, including women who worked the land at home.

A large number of schools are listed, in Parramatta, Wentworthville, Ermington, Rydalmere (this being the campus of the University of Western Sydney), Merrylands, North Rocks, Westmead and Carlingford.

A Federal Government grant has been obtained for funding. The committee must now is to produce a flyer to go to schools and community groups such as RSLs, Leagues Clubs and historical societies, to advertise the project. The project will start early next year and be concluded later in the year.

A Visit to Wahroonga Rotary Club

In preparation for my duties as next president I am attending various Rotary clubs to see how things work elsewhere.

The immediate thing to notice about Wahroonga, as indeed other clubs in the north shore or northern districts, is that they do not have difficulty with membership.

I was told numbers were "a bit down" for that meeting, they only had 35 turning up, along with staff of St Lucy's School for handicapped children. The club provides a bursary of \$5,000 a year for a selected child to attend the school and on this occasion the breakfast meeting was held in the school's premises.

The Wahroonga club, a daybreak group, is the only Rotary club in Wahroonga but there are clubs nearby, such as Turramurra, and the club has the advantage of having most members live in the area.

Club Updates

Dates for Diaries

14 – 16 November. District conference in Canberra.

18 November. Board Meeting.

21 November. Australian Rotary Health Corporate Golf Day, Twin Creeks Golf & Country Club, Luddenham.

22 November. Pre PETS 1 (President Elect Training)

28 November. Christmas Party. Olive Greek Restaurant and Bar, Harris Park.

29 November. Christmas Tree Sale preparation.

1 December. Annual General Meeting

5 December. Christmas Tree sales begin

23 February 2015. 110th Anniversary of the Foundation of Rotary.